

TAX FREEZE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



If my taxes are paid by a mortgage company can I still apply for the freeze?

Yes. For qualified applicants, mortgage companies are provided with frozen tax amounts or the regular base tax (whichever is lower) on an annual basis.

Can I receive tax freeze if I am currently receiving tax relief?

Yes. You may receive both the tax freeze and tax relief as long as you meet the requirements set for each.

Do all owners have to be 65 in order to apply?

No. Only one owner must be 65 years of age or older by December 31, 2021 to apply.

If my property is listed as a life estate can I still qualify?

Yes. In order to determine eligibility, proof of the life estate may be required when application is made.

Can I transfer the property tax freeze from one property to another?

No. If you sell or purchase a property you must reapply and establish a new base tax amount.

How is ownership verified?

Acceptable ownership evidence includes a deed warranty, quitclaim, etc., probated will, title, or bill of sale for a mobile home, divorce decree, land contract, or trust.

What if I owned the property for only part of the year?

An owner does not have to own the property on January 1 of the tax year. However, an applicant must own the property for any portion of the year for which application is made and must retain through the application deadline.

My spouse is not listed as an owner on the deed. Do I need to include my spouse's income?

Yes. The income of the applicant's spouse is to be included, regardless of ownership or residency.

What amount of tax becomes the frozen tax amount?

The amount paid in the year the owner first qualifies. This does not include water quality fees.

WHERE DO I PAY MY TAXES?

Payment Location

City Treasurer's Office in City Hall
101 E. 11th Street, Suite 100
Chattanooga, TN 37402

-- or --

www.chattanooga.gov

-- or --

Call 423-643-7262

Taxes must be paid by February 29 to avoid interest and penalties.

CITY OF CHATTANOOGA



OFFICE OF CITY TREASURER

TAXPAYER BENEFITS FOR
THE ELDERLY, DISABLED AND
VETERANS

*Our mission is to break down the
barriers that prevent citizens from
living the life they choose.*

TAX FREEZE



WHAT IS THE TAX FREEZE PROGRAM?

The Tax Freeze Program was created to help seniors (65 and older) by freezing the tax amount on their primary residence for future years.

DO I QUALIFY?

You may be eligible for the Tax Freeze Program if you are

- ◆ Age 65 or older
- ◆ Own and live in a home in the City of Chattanooga that is your primary residence (mobile homes are included)
- ◆ Combined total income for you, your spouse, and all parties listed on your property deed is less than \$41,380 for 2020

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications must be received by April 5 for a given tax year. Applicant must reapply annually.

Visit www.chattanooga.gov for applications and instructions or call the Treasurer's Office at (423) 643-7262. Signed applications must be postmarked no later than April 5, 2022 and sent to:

City of Chattanooga
Office of City Treasurer
101 E. 11th Street, Suite 100
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Please provide the following:

- ◆ Copy of all sources of income, including but not limited to:
 - Social Security (after Medicare is deducted)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Retirement or Pension benefits
 - Veteran's Administration benefits
 - Workers' Compensation
 - Salaries or Wages
 - Interest or Dividends
- ◆ Copy of your last tax return (or complete the online affidavit)
- ◆ Proof of residency, which can include two current utility bills or a copy of your voter identification card
- ◆ Proof of age, which can be a copy of your driver's license or birth certificate

TAX RELIEF

The City of Chattanooga Treasurer's Office administers a state funded Tax Relief Program to help taxpayers 65 or older, disabled citizens, and veterans pay their property taxes.

For qualifying applicants, the State will pay all or part of the property taxes on their home (including mobile homes) depending on the maximum amount of Tax Relief credit given in relation to the taxes due. Please note that Tax Relief benefits are available for both city and county taxes.

The Tax Relief Credit

The Tax Relief Credit is a rebate and does not have to be paid back unless it is later determined that the recipient was not eligible for the program. **The income limit for elderly and disabled is \$31,190. There is no income limit for disabled veterans.** For 2021, the maximum tax relief credit is:

- ◆ \$165.94 elderly and disabled
- ◆ \$986.63 disabled veteran, widow(er) of disabled vet, or spouse of a soldier killed in action

To obtain a Tax Relief application for 2021 taxes, please contact the Treasurer's Office at (423) 643-7262. The deadline to apply is April 5, 2021.

United Way Water Quality Fee Assistance

If you have been approved for participation in the City of Chattanooga Tax Freeze or the State of Tennessee Tax Relief Program(s) and completed the Water Quality Fee Assistance application, United Way will pay 100% of your 2021 water quality fees **only** directly to the City. Learn more at www.uwchatt.org.